

Supplementary Papers

Oxfordshire Growth Board

held in the Council Chamber of Cherwell District Council, Bodicote House,
Bodicote, Banbury OX15 4AA.

on Monday, 19 July 2021 at 2.00 pm

3. **Public participation** (Page 1224)

Public questions have been received from CPRE Oxfordshire and Need Not Greed Oxfordshire

4. **Growth Board Scrutiny Panel update** (Pages 1225 - 1227)

For action: To receive the recommendations from the Growth Board Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 12 July 2021.

8. **Housing and Growth Deal Reports**

(d) **Housing Advisory Group update** (Pages 1228 - 1230)

For information: Notes from the Housing Advisory Group meeting on 6 July 2021 are attached.

Public speakers

19 July 2021

OXFORDSHIRE

G R O W T H B O A R D

1. Helen Marshall, CPRE Oxfordshire:

We were promised an Oxfordshire 2050 Plan that would put the needs and wishes of Oxfordshire's people first. To ensure an effective consultation, we need documents that are fit for purpose. Would the Growth Board therefore support the addition of a paper to the OP2050 consultation documents that clearly compares and contrasts the impacts, risks and benefits of the different growth options presented?

2. David Young, on behalf of Need not Greed Oxfordshire:

The Sustainability Appraisal report for the Oxon 2050 Plan consultation states, Para 4.147, that even with the lowest growth option outlined 'negative effects are expected on all environmental factors: water, flooding, soils, biodiversity, landscape and heritage. Car traffic is also likely to increase with associated climate change and air pollution impacts'. However, instead of an open conversation with local residents about the impacts and benefits of the various growth options, the consultation document promises 'good growth' in 'ways that fully align and integrate sustainability objectives'. Need not Greed Oxfordshire seeks to know a) How the Growth Board reconciles these statements? b) How the Growth Board feels that the public should respond to a consultation on growth options that does not clearly set out the impacts of those options?

**Growth Board Draft response to recommendations of the Growth Board Scrutiny Panel
Recommendations made on 12 July 2021**

The Growth Board is requested to provide a response to the recommendations of the Scrutiny Panel for decision at its meeting on 19 July 2021.

Recommendation	Agree?	Comment
<p>Recommendation 1: That the Growth Board request that each partner council considers the Pathways to a Zero Carbon Oxfordshire Report at a meeting of their full council, to give it visibility and prompt debate and action against the recommendations within the report.</p>		
<p>Recommendation 2: That the Growth Board requests that partner councils, in their consideration of the Pathways to a Zero Carbon Oxfordshire Report, consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. prioritisation of projects given the limited resources available based on value for money and the marginal cost of abatement of carbon dioxide emissions. b. Take account of the differences of approach required between local authorities regulating activity in their communities to encourage carbon reduction and the development of zero carbon projects initiated by local authorities using their own financial resources. 		

<p>Recommendation 3: That the Growth Board requests that each partner council gives consideration in future iterations of their Local Plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. to the banning of natural gas central heating boilers, in order to mitigate emissions from new developments. b. to the ambition of promoting land use for solar electricity generation. 		
<p>Recommendation 4: That the Growth Board write to HM Government advocating for the discontinuation of gas boilers in new residential and commercial developments as soon as possible, in favour of more sustainable alternative heating methods.</p>		
<p>Recommendation 5: That the Growth Board explore opportunities in the future to assess whether some communities can pilot a shared access approach to ground source heating, possibly managed through parish or town councils.</p>		
<p>Recommendation 6: That the Growth Board requests that each partner council give consideration as to how they will manage the transition to a carbon society so as not to disproportionately impact disadvantage communities. It is suggested that this should be tackled through specific, tangible support and incentives.</p>		

Recommendation 7: That the Growth Board ensures that the Oxfordshire Plan builds in zero building standards to lock in long term progress towards net zero.

Recommendation 8: That the Growth Board asks officers to liaise with Parish and Town Councils, Neighbourhood Forums and elected members to identify suitable community buildings in their localities where copies of the Plan can be made available and visible to the community, especially in locations without an obvious location such as a library, and in areas where digital access might not be universal.

Notes

OF A MEETING OF THE

Oxfordshire Growth Board Housing Advisory Group

HELD ON TUESDAY 6 JULY 2021 AT 6.30 PM
VIRTUAL VIA ZOOM

Present:

Councillors Susan Brown (Chair), Robin Bennett, Diko Blackings, Jeff Haine, Judy Roberts, Pete Sudbury and Lucinda Wing

Officers: Kevin Jacob, (Oxfordshire Growth Board), Megan McFarlane (Housing and Growth Deal Team), Dave Scholes (Oxford City Council) and Paul Staines, (Housing and Growth Deal Team)

1 Introductions & welcome to new members; Apologies for absence and notifications of substitutions, declarations of interests; Chair's announcements

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made by all present.

There were no declarations of interest or Chair's announcements.

2 Notes of the previous meeting

The notes of the meeting held on 27 April 2021 were agreed as correct record.

The Chair referred to the significant and positive contribution John Donaldson had made to the work of the advisory group on behalf of Cherwell District Council prior to ceasing to be a councillor in May. It was agreed that the advisory group's thanks and gratitude should be conveyed to Mr Donaldson which Councillor Wing indicated she would action.

3 Terms of Reference of the Housing Advisory Group

The role of the Housing Advisory Group and its terms of reference were noted by the Group.

In discussion, members of the advisory group referred to its scope and remit as expressed within the Terms of Reference, noting that its original principle but not sole role was to provide strategic oversight in the development and delivery of the Housing from Infrastructure, (HFI) and Affordable Housing Programme, (AHP) work streams of the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal (the Deal) . It was suggested that as progress was

made towards the end of the Deal that there was the possibility to seek to expand upon the wider housing related role allowed in the ToR.

The Chair commented that the Advisory sub-group did have broad discretion with paras 1.3-1.35 of its existing Terms of Reference to operate within the housing remit set by the Growth Board and it was noted that by so doing, ideas around housing best practice in areas such as Low carbon and Community led Housing had been learned and shared for mutual benefit. It was felt that the ToR allowed for sufficient discretion and opportunity to explore issues of interest and importance to the group, notwithstanding that that it would be possible for the Advisory sub-group to recommend changes to its Terms of Reference to the Growth Board if it choose to do so at a later date.

Officers commented that they were working on the development of a more formalised work programme. This would be comprised of reports related to the monitoring of the AHP and HFI elements of the Deal and areas of work already committed to by the Advisory sub-group, but subject to consideration of resource issues, ideas for additional potential items were very much welcome and could be made to officers outside of the meeting.

4 Quarter 4 Housing and Growth Deal Progress Presentation

The advisory group was provided with a presentation setting out performance management information in respect of the Affordable Housing Programme, (AHP) and Homes from Infrastructure, (HFI) elements of the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal, based on the quarterly monitoring report to the Growth Board.

Key conclusions included:

- Homes from Infrastructure -the trajectory for delivery of homes accelerated by the programme had reduced to be close to target, but the extension to the programme timeline provided an opportunity to meet count additional accelerated homes..
- Reported national shortages of construction labour/materials was emerging as a significant risk to both the delivery of both the HFI and AHP programmes.
- The gross size of the AHP had increased in terms of total potential units, but it was recognised that the challenge to deliver these remained high given the backloaded nature of the programme and risk of slippage.
- The Growth Deal had been successful in securing a high level of grant to support delivery of local priorities relating to a number of social rent low carbon units.
- Further discussions with HM Government and Homes England were taking place around finalising scheme delivery and criteria for 5th year extension

In discussion, members of the advisory group noted the current Year 4 position and the proportion of units attributed with an amber or red RAG rating. Officers acknowledged this and that these ratings demonstrated the challenges to delivery. Officers advised that risks to delivery of all schemes was reviewed regularly in partnership with colleagues at district level. Flexibility from HM Government on the levels of grant available in the AHP, together with the ability to use Section 106 funds to contribute towards AHP scheme grant rates had helped to mitigate some of the financial risks. This left the delivery and timing risks together with the risk of schemes dropping out of the programme. On this basis, it was considered unlikely that the prioritisation methodology for schemes would be required

The Chair commented that whilst appropriate mitigations were being put in place, the scale of the challenge was clear as the county emerged from the Covid-19 pandemic. On this basis, the deliverability of projects would be a key consideration.

The advisory group noted the presentation.

5 First Homes Update

It was noted that consideration of this update would be deferred to the next meeting.

6 Update on Community Led Housing

The advisory group considered a status report detailing the Community Led Housing (CLH) schemes currently within the Growth Deal Y4 and contingency programmes. In addition, an action plan setting out progress in achieving recommendations relating to CLH was circulated.,

The point was made aware that CLH schemes were by definition community led schemes with an independent, autonomous, local focus. The requirement of CLH groups to secure Registered Provider status or to partner with a Registered Provider in order to secure HM Government funding had been felt to be a barrier to the delivery of more CLH schemes and ways of how this might be mitigated were discussed. It was felt that officers within the localities may be able to provide additional support for CLH groups in navigating the registered provider accreditation process. Officers agreed to investigate the feasibility of this taking into account available resources.

The meeting noted that a working group of planning officers was being set up to look at the planning related recommendations in the Community Led Housing report commissioned by the Growth Board and that future meetings of the sub-group would be updated on this work.

Reference was also made in discussion to the importance of self-build projects in contributing to greater affordable housing provision and of sharing best practice in this area. Reference was made to self-build projects within Cherwell District and it was suggested that officers from Cherwell District Council might wish to share their experiences of self-build projects with the advisory at a future date. It was also noted that HM Government had in April commissioned an independent review into scaling up provision of self-build and custom housebuilding led by Richard Bacon MP and that a briefing on the review's outcomes could form a future agenda item.

The advisory group noted the update report.

7 Dates of future meetings

Wednesday 2 September 2021

The meeting closed at 7.50 pm